(b) a forwardly inclined nose panel disposed between and attached to lower edges of the front portions of the side panels, and having horizontal leading and trailing edges;

(c) an upper cowl disposed between and attached to the side panels, said upper cowl having a substantially vertical, front portion terminating at a forward edge that engages an upper surface of the nose panel, and having a rearwardly-extending, upwardly inclined portion terminating at a rear edge;

(d) a lower cowl disposed between an attached to the side panels below the upper cowl and having a [substantially vertical,] front portion and rearwardly-extending, substantially horizontal, central and rear portions, said front portion terminating in a horizontal forward edge disposed above the trailing edge of the nose panel;

(e) a pair of vertical side skirts, each of said skirts being [movable between a first, lowered position and a second, raised position] mounted to a point on a side panel, the side skirt being movable between a first, lowered position and a second, raised position and free to move linearly and rotationally relative to the point so that each side skirt can alter its orientation relative to a work piece sliding through the saw; and

[(f) means attached to the hood for suspending a side skirt from each of the side panels; and]

(g) means attached to the hood for moving the hood between a retracted position and a working position directly over and straddling the saw blade; wherein the side panels, upper cowl, lower cowl, and side skirts are made of a rigid, transparent material. [, and whereby, when the hood is in a working position, movement of a work piece rearward against a lower surface of the nose panel first causes the hood to rise, and thereafter, with further rearward movement of the work piece, causes the trailing edge of the nose panel and the side skirts to rest on and make sliding contact with an upper surface of the work piece until the work piece has cleared the nose panel, whereafter the hood drops down to a position such that the trailing edge of the nose panel

rests upon the worktable while the side skirts continue to maintain sliding contact with the upper surface of the work piece until the entire work piece has cleared the side skirts, whereupon the side skirts also drop down to the worktable, and whereby further, air enters the hood through an intake opening defined by the rear portions of the side panels and the rear portion of the lower cowl, thence streams forward over the work piece and saw blade and through an orifice defined by the forward edge of the lower cowl, the trailing edge of the nose panel and the front portion of the side panels, and thereafter is conducted rearwardly between an upper surface of the lower cowl and a lower surface of the upper cowl to exit the hood.]

8. The hood of claim 6, <u>further comprising stop means for limiting the extent of downward movement of the side skirts when the hood is raised away from the work table, and</u> wherein the stop means is attached to an upper rear edge of each side skirt for abutting engagement of an upper rear edge of the side panel adjacent said skirt when said skirt is in a lowered position.

Please add new claims 24 and 25:

-- 24. The sawdust collection hood of claim 1, wherein each side skirt has a slot that enables linear movement of the side skirt relative to the side panel, and each side skirt is mounted to the respective side panel by a pivot pin inserted through said slot.

-- 25. The sawdust collection hood of claim 24, wherein each slot is forwardly and upwardly inclined at about thirty degrees declination from vertical.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the Office Action dated September 12, 2000 and allowance of all pending claims, as amended, are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to clarify an important structural difference between the claimed embodiment of applicant's invention and the cited prior art. The side skirts of applicant's